

Message Text

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44

ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4266

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SF, WA, UN

SUBJ: SAG REACTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE ON NAMIBIA

REF: USUN 6029

1. SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO UNANIMOUS SECURITY COUNCIL VOTE ON NAMIBIA (REFTEL) WAS CONTAINED IN STRONGLY WORDED STATEMENT ISSUED DEC. 18 BY FONMIN HILGARD MULLER. MULLER INTIMATED THAT SC RESOLUTION WOULD HAVE NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON SAG DELIBERATIONS OVER CONTINUED UN MEMBERSHIP. HE ASSIDUOUSLY AVOIDED ADDRESSING SPECIFICS OF RESOLUTION AND, WITH RESPECT TO NAMIBIA, REFERRED ONLY TO SAG PLAN FOR MULTIRACIAL TALKS THERE TO DECIDE FUTURE OF TERRITORY.

2. MULLER CHARGED UN WITH BEING "STRONGLY DISCREDITED IN ALMOST ALL RESPONSIBLE CIRCLES" AND ATTACKED ACCEPTANCE OF "SERIES OF ARROGANT RESOLUTIONS" DAMNING SOUTH AFRICA DESPITE PROOF OF SAG'S SINCERITY TO SOLVE PROBLEMS IN SPIRIT OF GOODWILL. HE STRESSED THAT SAG HAD "NEVER GIVEN IN TO PRESSURE

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OF THREATS," AND STATED WHOLE ISSUE WOULD BE STUDIED "AT LEISURE"

BEFORE SAG DECIDED "FINALLY ON HOW TO REACT."

3. REGARDING UN MEMBERSHIP, MULLER SAID SAG HAD NOT YET REACHED DECISION BUT "LATEST RESOLUTION OF SECURITY COUNCIL IN REGARD TO SWA HAS DEFINITELY CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS PLACING OUR MEMBERSHIP EVEN MORE IN THE BALANCE." DESPITE UN ATTACKS, SAG WOULD CONTINUE TO SEEK ITS "RIGHT OF EXISTENCE IN AFRICA" AND MAINTAIN EFFORTS TO CONVINCE "REASONABLE AND REALISTIC LEADERS IN AFRICA" OF SAG'S GOODWILL. ALTERNATIVE TO THIS, MULLER CONCLUDED, "IS CONFLICT ON A LARGE SCALE THAT MIGHT BE DESTRUCTIBLE TO US ALL, WHITE AND BLACK."

4. COMMENT: MULLER'S EMPHASIS ON QUESTION OF CONTINUED UN MEMBERSHIP AND CASTIGATION OF UN "ARROGANCE" IGNORES FACT OF UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION. DESPITE MULLER'S DISCLAIMER REGARDING EFFECT OF OUTSIDE PRESSURE, WESTERN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION PUTS IT IN DIFFERENT LIGHT THAN USUAL CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA. POSSIBILITY ALWAYS EXISTS THAT SC RESOLUTION WILL CAUSE SAG TO BECOME EVEN MORE INTRANSIGENT IN STEERING ITS COURSE TOWARD ETHNICALLY-BASED CONFEDERATION IN NAMIBIA. HOWEVER, SAG MAY VIEW RESOLUTION AS ANOTHER CLEAR SIGN THAT IT MUST MAKE FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES IN ITS NAMIBIAN POLICY. RESOLUTION MIGHT, THEN, MOVE SAG TOWARD OVERCOMING OBSTACLES IN WAY OF MULTIRACIAL TALKS (CAPE TOWN 859) AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE SO THAT SOME TANGIBLE, POSITIVE RESULT CAN BE ACHIEVED BEFORE MAY 30 SC REVIEW.
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